IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the title with the following new title:

~~AUTOMATIC SPEECH RECOGNITION AND TEXT TO SPEECH SYSTEMS, SOFTWARES AND METHODS FOR IMPROVING "KILL ON BARGE-IN" RESPONSE TIME~~

DISTRIBUTED SPEECH SYSTEM WITH BUFFER FLUSHING ON BARG-IN

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3 at line 11 with the following new paragraph:

~~Fig.s~~ Figs. 3A-3E are successive snapshots for illustrating a flushing of a jitter buffer according to an embodiment of the present invention.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5 at line 7 with the following new paragraph:

Referring now to ~~Fig.s~~ Figs. 3A – 3E, the flushing operation is described in more detail, using a graphical analog. In all these ~~Fig.s~~ Figs., a jitter buffer is depicted as a vertical tube JB, that is open from the top to receive packets.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5 at line 30 with the following new paragraph:

~~Fig.s~~ Figs. 4-7 show various embodiments of the invention, along with various possible arrangements. It should be remembered in all of these embodiments and arrangements that the detection of a barge-in event may take place at any one of the shown components. In addition, in all of these embodiments and arrangements, while a Voice Interface Device 100 is shown, such is preferred but not necessary. Indeed, a prior art voice interface device VID may be substituted, if it can obey the flushing command of a purge packet without any special configuration.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6 at line 24 with the following new paragraph:

In the first case, once voice browser 410 is aware of a barge-in event, it can transmit a purge packet NPP1. If purge packet NPP1 is transmitted along connection SA4 without more, it will arrive there after audio packets APB (which will thus be stored in jitter buffer JB), and before audio packets APS (which will thus become stragglers). Accordingly, purge packet

NPP1 will operate as seen in ~~Fig.s~~ Figs. 3A – 3E. Once received, audio packets APB and straggler audio packets APS will be flushed.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11 at line 32 with the following new paragraph:

According to an optional next box 940, the encoded barge-in sound is transmitted. Transmission can be as a signal if it is to a collocated device, or through a network, if the barge in sound is encoded as barge in packets.